

Newsletter

May 2017



Caritas in Veritate Foundation

"Authentic development must foster the development of each man and the whole man."

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The new Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN, Mgr. Mauro Cionini, took office on February 6, 2017. He has a multilateral background, having been Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Holy See in New York from 2010 to 2013.
- During the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council (September 2017), the Foundation will organize, together with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See, a Side Event on the Right to Water. Invitation will follow.
- Donors: The Foundation is very grateful for the financial support provided by individuals and institutional donors, which enables us to continue to witness to Christian values in the international context of Geneva. However, we need to assure long-term financial stability and, therefore, we require your help. Our future work depends on your voluntary contributions. You can help us by funding concrete projects or by donating to the development of the Foundation.

ACTIVITIES

Conferences

Since the beginning of the year, the Foundation participated in the organization of several high-level seminars to discuss specific topics of international relevance. In recent months, the President of the Foundation, H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, participated in and intervened on the following:

- 105th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council, Geneva, December 2016;
- 140th meeting of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Geneva, January 2017;
- 2nd Dialogue on Faith, Peacebuilding & Development, Geneva, February 2017;
- First Thematic Consultation on the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, Geneva, May 2017;



In March 2017, during the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) (27 February – 24 March) the Foundation, together with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See, Caritas Internationalis and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) organized a side-event “Unaccompanied Children on the Move: Preserving their Dignity and Rights” which was also co-sponsored by the Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs. Moreover, this initiative was supported by different States and institutions, including African Union and European Union.

Father Fabio Baggio, Co-Secretary of the Section on Refugees and Migrants, of the Vatican’s Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development intervened addressing the migration crisis as a global phenomenon that needs attention. The commitment of His Holiness Pope Francis on this specific issue and the necessity to be sensitive to the sufferance of unaccompanied child migrants, who are the most vulnerable, was highlighted.

H.E. Ambassador W.L. Swing, General Director of the International Organization for Migration, underscored the innocence of the minors, subjected to grave violations of fundamental rights. The interventions can be found on the homepage of the Foundation (www.fciv.org).

During the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council of the UN, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See with the support of expertise provided by the Foundation, intervened on the following topics:

- Death Penalty
- Climate Change
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Freedom of Religion
- Access to Medicines
- Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic



Side-event: “Unaccompanied Children on the Move: Preserving their Dignity and Rights”; Geneva, Palais des Nations, March 2017



Speakers at the Side-event: "Unaccompanied Children on the Move: Preserving their Dignity and Rights"; Geneva, Palais des Nations, March 2017

Publications

We are currently working on two new working papers:

- Analyzing the ethical impact and perspective of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS): humanized robots and humans robotized? The aim is to discover the implications and impacts of LAWS, giving an ethical perspective on such a delicate issue. The work will be informally presented to the experts and discussed in the summer of 2017, thereafter published;
- The right to Water and Sanitation as a basic human right: The working paper will be a source of inspiration for the side event on the same subject, organized by the Foundation and the Permanent Mission of the Holy See during the 36th HRC session.

AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY

- **Business Ethics**
- **Religious Freedom**
- **Education**
- **Ethical Challenges posed by a changing society due to advanced technology:** The need to develop a model of development that puts technology at the service of common good and human dignity.
- **Migrant Integration in Europe:** What are the requirements and expectations that the European countries should demand regarding migrant integration and how can these expectations be implemented?



OUR MISSION

The **Caritas in Veritate Foundation** is grounded in Christian values and the social teaching of the Catholic Church. It aims to provide Christian Representatives at the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva with expertise and strategic thinking. By closely collaborating with the Holy See Mission and the Mission of the Order of Malta to the UN, as well as with Catholic-inspired non-governmental organizations, the Foundation contributes to the negotiations and the decision-making process involved. Thanks to its research capability and to its commitment to excellence, the aims of the Foundation are to humanize international life by contributing the perspective of Christian faith and the priority given to the human person.

The goal of the Foundation is to articulate in the international arena the positions of the Holy See and the Catholic Church, as a contribution to an international culture that prioritizes peace and integral human development.

Your donation makes a difference!



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